



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – Volcano

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

January 21, 2002

Numbers Affected

Total Affected: Approximately 350,000 (U.N.)
Deaths: Approximately 245 (U.N. and USAID/OFDA field reports)
Displaced People: Estimates range from 65,000 (USAID/OFDA field reports) to 350,000 (local authorities)

Current Situation

- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported on January 20 that the lava flow had divided the town into three sectors, and that 30 percent of Goma town had been destroyed. Volcanologists have reported that the crater is no longer active and that there are no further lava flows. USAID/OFDA field staff report that tremors continue, however the risk of continued volcanic activity has decreased.
- On January 21, USAID/OFDA field staff reported that the numbers of displaced had dropped significantly over the past 48 hours. Currently, displaced people are located in the following locations: in camps near Gisenyi, Rwanda (10,500); in Sake, DRC (5,000-6,000); in Rutshuru, DRC (5,000-6000); in Bukavu, DRC (11,000) and surrounding areas (30,000). USAID/OFDA field staff estimate that there are 12,000 homeless families in Goma.
- USAID/OFDA field staff reported that on the evening of January 20 there were almost no displaced people in Gisenyi town. Most of the people had returned to Goma and some moved south toward Bukavu, DRC. The remainder of the people that had fled to Gisenyi moved to one of the two displacement camps nearby. The two camps, with a potential capacity of 85,000, currently house approximately 10,500. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the camps have adequate food supplies, although there is a need for non-food items including kitchen sets.
- On January 19, UNOCHA estimated that 120,000 people were moving toward Bukavu, along both the eastern (Rwandan) shore and the western (Congolese) shore of Lake Kivu. USAID/OFDA field staff report that approximately 41,000 residents of Goma are currently in and around Bukavu. The remainder of the 120,000 displaced are believed to have returned to Goma.
- The water system in Goma is operable, although service has not yet resumed. The Goma water authority has stated that all four water stations are intact and that the distribution network is capable of serving 66 percent of the city's requirements. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is providing fuel to run generators and chlorine to purify water. ICRC is also assisting to establish 12 water pumps on Lake Kivu. Volcanologists and water sanitation engineers state that the lava flow into Lake Kivu has not lowered its potability.
- Electricity service is been re-established in western parts of Goma, according to UNOCHA.
- Relief agencies are searching for an appropriate site in western Goma to establish a camp for homeless residents.
- Returnees are finding that extensive looting has taken place and that many intact homes are occupied by squatters. UNICEF reports that 75 percent of its stock of therapeutic milk and vitamins has been looted.
- Though all of the buildings at Goma airport are intact, 1800 meters of the 2200-meter airstrip are covered with lava. The U.N. Mission to Congo (MONUC) has withdrawn its personnel to Kisangani, as Goma is no longer a viable logistics base.

U.S. Government Response

- A USAID/OFDA humanitarian relief flight carrying 20,000 blankets, 20,000 5-gallon water containers, 20 10,000-liter water bladders, and 5,000 dust masks from USAID's stockpile in Maryland arrived in Kigali, Rwanda on January 21. The materials were consigned to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Vision, and International Rescue Committee (IRC) for distribution in and around Goma. As of January 21, 60 percent of the commodities has already been delivered to Goma. The remaining 40 percent is to be shipped on January 22.
- USAID/OFDA has made \$3 million available for relief assistance in response to the Goma volcano. Funds may be applied toward monetary grants to relief agencies, additional commodities shipments, or local purchase of relief items as needs require.
- USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has added a sixth person to the USAID volcano response team to focus on food needs and food distribution. The USAID team now includes six personnel: three field operations staff, a health specialist, a water/sanitation engineer, and the USAID/FFP food specialist.

- USAID/FFP has authorized the World Food Program (WFP) to reallocate 4,080 metric tons (MT) of emergency food from ongoing programs in the region for response to the Goma volcano.
- USAID/OFDA is providing \$25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa for relief assistance in the DRC.
- USAID/OFDA is providing \$25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda for relief assistance in Rwanda.
- USAID/OFDA has authorized Catholic Relief Services to reallocate non-food items stockpiled in the region for the rapid relief of populations affected by the volcano.
- USAID/OFDA responded to the complex emergency in DRC with over \$21 million for relief programs in FY01.

Relief Efforts

- UNOCHA released a financial appeal for the Goma disaster response that totals \$15 million.
- Relief coordination is taking place in Goma, Gisenyi, Ruhengeri, and Bukavu. Sector coordination has been assigned to various relief agencies: WHO and MSF in the health sector; UNICEF for no-food items; WFP for food aid and logistics; OXFAM and IRC for water and sanitation; and OCHA will provide risk assessment and overall information and coordination.
- MONUC helicopters have been conducting aerial reconnaissance of the volcano and have airlifted commodities to the area for UNOCHA.
- The World Food Program has distributed 9 metric tons (MT) of high-energy biscuits to Gisenyi, and an additional 36 MT of food aid is being delivered to the area.
- UNICEF is delivering 60 MT of relief commodities to Kigali on January 21, to include water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts, tents, and blankets. UNICEF has already delivered over 28 MT of relief supplies.

Donor Response

- Government of Australia: \$500,000 for food aid.
- Government of Belgium: \$1.8 million (2 million Euros), including an airlift of relief commodities
- Government of the DRC: Approximately \$1.3 million (450 million Congolese Francs)
- Government of France: Approximately \$270,000 (300,000 Euros)
- Government of Germany: Approximately \$1,170,000 (1.3 million Euros).
- Government of Holland: Approximately \$225,000 (255,000 Euros)
- Government of Iceland: Approximately \$720,000 (800,000 Euros)
- Government of Rwanda: Establishing displacement camps, coordination, and other activities
- Government of Sweden: \$476,000
- United Kingdom: Approximately \$2.87 million

Background

- Mt. Nyiragongo erupted at approximately 9:30 AM local time (2:30 AM EST) on January 17. The volcano produced three paths of lava, one of which headed toward the city of Goma, 18 kilometers to the south. A fourth fissure opened at 4:00 PM on January 17. The area had been experiencing tremors intermittently since March 2001. The most recent eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo was in 1977, when the lava flow covered 20 square kilometers, killed 2,000 people, and destroyed 400 houses and a 10-kilometre section of road.
- On January 18, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda Margaret K. McMillion and U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Aubrey Hooks declared disasters for the eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo near Goma in the DRC.

U.S. Government Assistance

USAID/OFDA

- USAID/OFDA has provided \$50,000 for relief activities in response to the volcano eruption in DRC. The funds will be disbursed to implementing partners providing assistance to volcano-affected populations.
- USAID/OFDA is providing relief commodities valued at approximately \$494,000. The costs include the value of the commodities and the transportation.

USAID/FFP

- USAID/FFP is reallocating 4,080 MT of emergency food aid from ongoing programs in the region. This is enough food to feed 200,000 to 250,000 people for one month.

USAID/OFDA\$544,000
Total USG Assistance\$544,000

USAID/OFDA fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html